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INSIDE N.I.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

September 1984 Applications for Membership: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objections are received by November 1, 1984, their membership will become effective on that date.

2072-MT Howard W. Simmons, P. O. Box 104, London E11 1ND, England
(Oriental)

DONATIONS REPORT

We wish to acknowledge the following donation received since the last report:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type of Donation</u>	<u>Preference of Use</u>
HUARD, Serge	1 Canadian Trade Dollar (NVS)	NI Reference Collection

NVS = No Value Stated by donor.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

I. Acknowledgement is made below to those who have donated material to the NI Library.

American Numismatic Society

WAGGONER, NANCY M. *Early Greek coins from the collection of Jonathan an P. Rosen.* Pub. 1983, 55pp, w/plates.

Serge Huard

FECTION, ANDRE. *Les dollars de commerce du Quebec.* Pub. 1984, 38pp, illus.

Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr.

CODRINGTON, O. *A manual of Musalman numismatics.* Pub. 1970, 239pp, not illus. A reprint of 1904 edition. Translates legends, titles, mint towns.

BUFORD, JAMES E. *A guide to the cleaning of coins.* Pub. 1961, 20pp, illus.

BROTMAN, IRWIN F. *A guide to the temple tokens of India.* Pub. 1970, 208pp, illus.

CUNIETTI-FERRANDO, ARNALDO JOSE. *La Amonedacion Nacional 1881-1964.* Pub. 1964, 62pp, illus. Published by the Asociacion Numismatica Argentina, Vol. II of a series.

As above. *Monedas de Buenos Aires, Acunacion de Birmingham 1821-1825*. Pub. 1964, 35pp, illus. Asociacion Numismatica Argentina, Vol. III.

As above. *Monedas de la Republic Argentina*. Pub. 1965, 63pp, illus. Asociacion Numismatica Argentina, Vol. IV.

SOTHEY. *The Palace Collection of Egypt*. Pub. 1954, 311pp, 38 plates. The auction catalog of the sale by Sotheby's of King Farouk's coin collection. With prices realized.

Donald S. Kleckner

SLIDE SET #38. ROMAN MEDALLIONS (24 Slides). ANS production. William E. Metcalf, author.

Bruce Smith

UTBERG, NEIL S. *Numismatic sidelines of Mexico, patterns, errors, counterfeits, oddities, cut and counterstamped Mexican coins*. Pub. 1967, 32pp, illus.

As above. *Numismatic sidelines of Mexico, medals, hacienda tokens, patterns, errors, counterfeits, oddities, cut and counterstamped Mexican coins*. Pub. 1965, 68pp, illus.

KEMP, BRIAN. *British Empire and Commonwealth Banknotes*. Pub. 1977, 32pp, illus.

SHARIFFUDDIN, P. M. *Brunei Cannon*. Pub. 1969, 21pp, illus. As a rule we do not get non-numismatic material but this pamphlet should interest any collector of Brunei coinage as a side light to the interesting history of that country.

II. In addition to the above the Library would also like to thank Bruce Smith for his very generous donation of over 900 magazines, price lists, catalogs, and miscellaneous material. Our thanks also to Donald Kleckner for his gift of numismatic material over and above the slide set.

Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr.
NI Book Librarian

MALDIVES, CUPRO-NICKEL RUPEE, 1982

by John DeMarais, Dallas, Texas, NI #1539

The Republic of Maldives has issues its one rufiyya (rupee) denomination in metal for the first time. Until now this denomination has been a note printed on stiff paper. The new coin is cupro-nickel, has a diameter of 26mm, and has a reeded edge. The obverse bears the usual arms as its type with the date 1982 in western numerals at the upper left and the date 1302 in Islamic numerals at the upper right. "REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES" in English at the top and a knotted rope at the bottom. A large western numeral "1" appears in the center with the word "RUFIIYYA" below in both western and native lettering.

TO EACH HIS OWN

PART IV: THE DENOMINATIONS (Units of Currency in the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish Republic)

by I. C. G. Campbell, Lincoln, Nebraska, NI #LM-12

(Corrections and additions by Kenneth M. MacKenzie, any errors being my own.)



The "YUZLUK" (i.e. 100 para, hence "yuz" or 2½ kurus piece of Selim III) (Cr. 93; N.P. 705)

Obverse: Sültanul berreyni...legend and the sultan's name, etc. The regnal year is in the third line, far left.

Reverse: Sultan's tuğra, the mint (Islambul) and the accession date (1203 H).

For many countries the coinage issued seems at first thought to be relatively simple. For instance, since our national currency is only two centuries old, it has remained basically unchanged. For a country like Britain, from Norman days to the present, the denominational names during those 900 years have undergone changes which reflect its history. This includes the fact that many of the names used have been derived from other countries with which Britain has been involved in history, by trade, by occupation, or because of its component parts (Scotland/England).

In the Ottoman Empire changes came somewhat differently. As nomads at the beginning the early Turks had no currency. As they gradually conquered territories where trade and taxes were a way of life, coins had to be minted. At the beginning they made use of what was already there, then used the mints that were, or had been, already in operation. The coins themselves would be influenced by those already in use.

In the later stages of the empire, for territories such as Egypt, Tunis, Tripoli, some of the locally minted coinage and denominations

were retained. For example, the "dört köse gümüş" of Tunis, Ahmet I and other sultans. The Ottomans conquered this territory in 1570. Thus, that system contained *burbes* and *kharubs* and continued to mint such denominations. The table in use was as follows, remembering that piastres is the European translation for *kuruş*:

2 <i>burbes</i>	= 1 <i>asper</i>
13 <i>burbes</i>	= 1 <i>kharub</i>
16 <i>kharubs</i>	= 1 <i>piastre (sebili)</i>



Pre-reform one *kuruş* of Tunis of Abdül Mecid showing the normal "Sültanul Berryn"..legend, used for each sultan with the change of name.



Reform coinage of Tunis, 5 *riyal*, i.e. *kuruş*, showing wreath style.

When Abdül Mecid reformed the coinage at home, he did so also in Tunis, the pre-reform coinage did not carry the name of the ruler (the Bey of Tunis) as well, as in the later coins. In 1881 Tunis became French.

For those not reading Arabic script, the reform coinage is characterised by the almost complete wreath on either side of the coin.

The Ottomans controlled Algiers from 1518 A.D. The units were called variously *asper*, *akçe*, *kharuba*, *mazuna* and *budju*. There was no denomination written on a coin and thus the unit is best determined by its weight and size. The issue is quite complex but since this article is primarily concerned with Turkey proper, there is no point in going into it.



10 *guerche (kuruş)*, Egypt
Obv.: *Tuğra*, denomination
Rev.: Regnal year (4), struck in Misr (Egypt), 1277 H.

Egypt, nearer physically (and more nearly related to the Ottoman Empire proper), was added to the Empire in 1516 A.D. Its units were 40 *para* for 1 *guerche (kuruş)*, *piaster* and 100 *guerche* to the pound (*lira*). Centuries later Abdül Mecid reformed the Egyptian coinage in line with that at home. Many of the coins are very similar in appearance to the homeland ones. The mint mark MISR (مصر) is the

quickest and easiest identification even for those who have little understanding of the Arabic script. There are other and minor differences and, with a little experience, many "Egyptian" coins can be spotted on sight.

As a final example, when the Ottomans took the principality of Tlemcen (in N. Africa) they struck *dinars*, e.g. Murat III and Mehmet III. These are like the dinars of the rest of the Arabic world and quite different in appearance from the Osmanli coinage.

The name of the reigning Sultan was added to the other legends on the coins.

For the Ottoman heartland, i.e. Asia Minor (Anatolia-Rum), a rather different coinage evolved. Later this rather special Ottoman coinage was extended to territory from Iraq south to Saudi Arabia (to give them their modern names).

قسطنطينيه

Kostantaniye

إسلامبول or للإبول

Islambul

Above are the mint names as rendered on all coins minted in Constantinople (Islambul, its name after Mehmet Fatih conquest) i.e. modern, Istanbul. Kostantaniye is the Arabic rendering of Constantinople, i.e. the City of Constantine. In some western phonetics it is spelled as beginning with a "Q".

The Turkish language tends to be descriptive when it comes to names. In the same way that we call five cents a nickel, or a 25 cent piece a quarter, even so the Osmanli used the metal name, "gold" = *altın* as a unit or name for the gold pieces struck, and later other names would arise as there needed to be divisions. "*Akee*", or white, came to be the name for the first silver pieces, while "*para*", meaning money, became the smallest unit. It lasted until the value of the para as a unit became so infinitesimal that it ceased to be coined or used.

Much later on, while keeping the original national names in the many sections of the empire, gradually one or two other names were assimilated. The most common and best known of these was, in modern Turkish, the "*kuruş*", a "*guerche*" in Egypt and so on. Here the original name was an European one, variously called a groat, gros, groschen. Its main usage came to be in Egypt and then the Ottoman heartland. However, as a unit it was also used in a variety of ways and spellings in territories outside of Turkey itself. Europeans translated this by the word "*piastre*", variously derived from Italian or Spanish. Eventually it became a specific unit of Turkish currency, equivalent to 40 para, and itself a 1/100th of a Turkish lira (pound). This last is a very late name to be incorporated into the language and again derived from elsewhere, ultimately the Latin "*librum*".

For the vocabulary which is to come, and for most of my remarks, I am basing them on two admirable books. Nuri Pere's work *Osmanlılarda Madenî Paralar*" first, and later, for the reform currency which was to

dominate the Turkish currency from 1844 A.D. on, I refer constantly to *Ottoman Coinage During the Reign of Sultan Abdülmecid Han* by the great Turkish numismatist Cüneyt Ölçer. For the later coinage there will also be references to the Krause/Mishler *Standard Catalog of World Coins* with which most collectors in the U.S.A. are familiar. The Nuri Pere book is the one that I prefer myself. It is in modern (phonetic) Turkish, in which the vocabulary can be used by anyone. I like the arrangement and the plates are excellent. It makes no pretense of being complete but it does show examples of the majority of Turkish coins that any ordinary collector is likely to see.

Actually the word "*kuruş*" does not appear in N.P. until the reign of Suleyman II, 1099-1102H (1687/91AD). "*Dirhem*" for silver coins appears in the reign of Suleyman I, 926-974H (1520/66AD) but it was an alien word and the coins were minted further East than Turkey proper.

From the beginning the copper coins are called simply "*mangır*" which means just "a copper coin". Under Mustafa II these are referred as "*Bakır Ae*", or "coppers" in much the same way that the slang word for British pennies was "coppers", - also for policemen.

A contemporary writer and traveller, Leunclavius, visiting Constantinople in 1585 commented: "The '*manguri*' followed in place of the small coins the ancients called '*asses*', the Roman '*ass*'." The later, a coin for daily use. In reference to the silver coins the Greks called "*aspri*", and the Turks *acse* (*akçe*), he gave the following table.

8 munguri = 1 silver aspro
4 aspri = 1 drama
9 dramae = 1 German thaler.

Perhaps the main point here is the continued use of names long in use, even though the weights and percentages have changed.

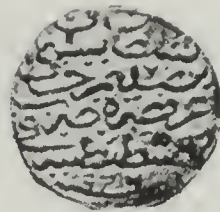
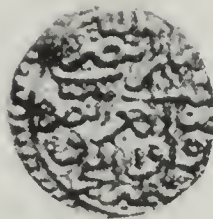
The early words used by the Ottomans were Turkish, though they had to be "fitted" into the Arabic script. Thus "*altın*" meaning gold, or simply "goldpiece" to translate it easily. The earliest coin, an "*akçe*" from "ak", white, i.e. the white piece for the small silver coin. Later the term was also used for "money", just as "para" was. Correctly, the expression is "*akçe ar*" though the coins are always referred to as "*akçe*". Because of the primitive methods of minting (and also because of chisellers) the weights of the silver and copper coins vary, sometimes quite a bit.

When the development of the empire required a more elaborate currency, the units began by being descriptive, ultimately becoming the most commonly used terms. For example: *yarım*, a half piece; *tek*, a single piece; *çifte*, a double (paired), *dörtlük*, a four-piece, as in the English "Fourpenny bit" (a Maundy coin); *beşlik onluk*, etc.

Sometimes names were transferred to individual coins. Some 24 years after he had conquered Constantinople, Mehmet II struck the first "*altın*", - i.e. gold piece. Hitherto he had been striking the standard trade gold piece, the Venetian ducat, mainly in Edirne and of the same weight. This was the "*sultani altın*". Eventually the coin came to be called simply "*sultani*", possibly under Selim I. However, Nuri Pere first used the name in his catalog in the reign of Ibrahim



a. Halep (Aleppo)

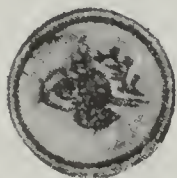
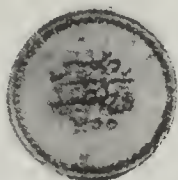


b. Kostantiniye

Two altın of Süleyman I, both characteristic of this period.

(1640/48), the weights being around 3.4 gr. Lighter "sultani" were struck elsewhere in the empire.

In a very similar manner the new 20 shilling pieces minted in England in 1820, and called a pound, before long was called a "sovereign". Perhaps the most fascinating piece I have encountered as a unit is "dört köşe gümüş", literally the "four cornered silver piece" in the reign of Ahmet I.



$\frac{1}{2}$ memduhiye altın of Abdül Mecid
(pre-reform coinage)

In the latter part of the empire, new and different series were also called after the reigning sultan. Thus, "mahmudiye" for the coins of Mahmut II while the similar coins of Abdül Mecid, his son's reign, for the first four years were called "memduhiye". The "mecidiyeler"

for the new coinage of Abdülmecid, and the lira or pound pieces (100 k) of Memhet V Reşat were called "reşadiyeler".

When Mehmet II struck his first "sultani", there were legends on each side. Thus the obverse (N.P.) bore the words "Daribün nadri sahibül izzı vennasrı filberri velbahr" (Arabic). In contemporary Turkish this reads "Altın basan, denizde ve karada Tanrının yardımına mazhar, izzet sahibi". Translated, this reads: "Coiner of gold, object of God's help on sea and the two lands - Europe and Asia -, Master of glory" or "Striker of the glittering, Master of Might and victorious on land and sea." The reverse side of his gold bore his name and pedigree, i.e. Sultan Mehmet, son of the Sultan Murat - a form of identification up to the days of the Republic when family names became the law of the land, where and when struck. Thus in Kostantiniye in 882. It had a similar use for the large silver pieces. This obverse legend was not used after 1697 (1108 H) - Lane Poole, British Museum catalogue -, though the last shown by Nuri Pere are gold coins of Mustafa III (1171 H/1757 AD) for Egypt and N. Africa.



Legend reads "Daribün... velbahr". The style of the script may vary and the arrangements may vary.



This legend reads "Sultanül berreyni....Sultan". Letters and words arrangements may vary.

The second and by far more common legend was "Sultanül berreyne ve hakanül bahreyne essultan bin essultan" (Arabic), which in contemporary Turkish reads "İki karnînin sultanı ve iki denizin hakani sultan oğlu sultan". The English translation reads "Sultan of the two lands and the lord of the two seas, the sultan the son of the sultan". Mehmet II used this for the obverse of his 10 akçe pieces (On akçelik Ar) (N.P. #82/3) with his name, mint and date for the reverse. Bayazıt II used it on the obverse of one of his Kostantaniye pieces (N.P. #102). The last sultan to use this legend was Mahmut II 1223 H (1808 AD). Long before then, however, it was used widely on the silver as well as the gold.

At this point it is well to note the method of dating of Ottoman coins. This was the use of the accession date (cülûs bahsisi) with the mint and the regnal year somewhere else on the coin, often on a different side. This began with Bayazıt I who began the practice of paying his military men, the elite corps known as the "Janisaries - yeni ceri", like the old Roman Praetorian Guard, a sum of money, presumably to ensure their loyalty. Thus, although Bayazıt came to the throne in 791 H (1389), his coins are dated 792 H. From this time on the use of the accession date more or less had to be used on the coinage of each new sultan. Later (1512) this became a fixed sum of 3000 akçe for each man. Thus Selim I paid 50 altın to each Janisary, a sum totalling 2 million altın (Uzuncarsili).

Mustafa II (1695-1703/1106 H) created a new standard of gold for Istanbul and Egypt. This was for the purpose of trying to control the flow of gold from Istanbul to Egypt for profit. The new gold piece, the *cedid eşrefi*, carried a tuğra on the reverse in place of the usual legend. It (tek) was the same weight (3.35-3.45) and better struck than the earlier gold; at the same time there was minted a double (*çifte*) piece of 6.50 gr. The old eşrefi pieces were struck also in Kostantiniye and Misr.

This action of Mustafa marked the introduction of a two-coin gold system.

His successor, Amhet III (1703/1132 H) carried this a step further. Beside the old sultani with its legends, he struck a whole series of gold pieces which bore the tuğra on the reverse. These five broad diameter pieces were called the *kebir eşrefi*, literally the "noble pieces", as indeed they were, perhaps the most beautiful, certainly the most imposing, pieces of the entire Ottoman coinage. They retained the old mint name Konstantiniye.

Tek (1)	- 3.40 gr.
Çifte (2)	- 6.60 gr. (double)
Dörtlük (x 4)	- 13.75 gr.
Beşlik (x 5)	- 16.90 gr.
Onluk (x 10)	- 34.40 gr.

Some years later in 1716 he introduced another two different types of gold. The *cedid eşrefi*, which equalled 330 akçeler, now only .20 grams in Istanbul, and 315 in Misr. The other was the *zeri İstanbul* (3.50 gr.) and its half (*yarım*) of 1.75 gr. These had the tuğra on the obverse while the reverse carried simply the legend "struck in Islambol 1115". From this time on the Istanbul gold bears that mint

mark instead of *Konstantiniye* as in all the years past.

The new *zeri mahbub* (2.60 g) and its half (*yarim*) 1.25 g were minted in Islambol and equalled 400 *akçeler*. This series continued to be struck by the next seven sultans.

Egypt (Mtsr) under Ahmet III had the series known as *Mīsr tuğralīsī* or *tuğralī* - literally *Egypt with a tuğra*. The *eşrefi* type had the lengthy sultan's legend on the obverse. On the reverse was simply the mint name.

The *cedid zincirili*, a little heavier, however, has the tuğra on the obverse, with the mint name on the reverse. These coins are strikingly different in contrast to the earlier heavy legend on either side, and the relatively light tuğra on one, the struck in Islambol on the other.

One of the interesting aspects of the early Osmanli coinage is that the design and weight (for silver and copper) seem to have had little to do or be influenced by the coinage of the countries with which the Osmanlis must have been in contact. (I have at times wondered if the small *akçeler* owed anything to the fact that the silver, very debased, pieces of the contemporary Byzantine ones, i.e. struck by the last emperors in Constantinople. I have nothing on which to base this, however.) If one looks at the Selcuk pieces, one can see at once their relation to the aspers of Trebizond, or the trams of Armenia. In the cases of the many Beylikler (Principalities) at first glance it is obvious that the size and design of the coins owe much to Byzantine style, sometimes even to classical Greek and Rome, e.g. the Artuks of Mardin. Human figures were not permitted on any Islamic coins, yet portrait types and human figures appeared on a number of coins. I have read various explanations but the most likely seems to be that in dealing with a currency for daily use in the market place and with a subject population, it was essential to have a unit of coinage that was easily recognizable. This may be borne out in part by the fact that in some hoards of Byzantine bronze from eastern Anatolia a number of Byzantine bronzes had been counterstamped with an Arabic letter.

The early Osmanli coinage as it appears in Nuri Pere is simple. The earliest coins are the *akçe* and *mangir*, presumably the small coins for every day living. In the silver coins issued by the earliest rulers, the weight of silver varies as widely as 1 to 1.8 grams, the *mangir* even more widely, as 1.39 to 4.05. During this period of the empire when it was still growing and being consolidated, probably the currency already in circulation was being used.

It might be noted here that in the nomadic tradition - remembering that the original Turks were nomads - the booty had to be divided after a raid. Naturally, no one wanted to wait for the reminting of the gold! Coppers were essentially for local purchases. No doubt this also influenced the fact that the minting of empire gold was not high on the list until the time of Süleyman.

In his time one altın = 1 direm + one qirat of Ottoman gold.

Mahmet II Fatih (the Conqueror) ruled, with an intermission of 6 years,

from 1444/81 A.D. He is listed striking gold *altın* at a steady weight of 3.40 gms. His *akçeler* vary from .75 to 1 gm. and these were minted in innumerable parts of the empire, with, no doubt, more mints to be discovered as the years go by. (Over the centuries Nuri Pere listed 88 mints.) Mehmet II also made use of an *on akçelik* or *ten akçe* piece. Its weight seems to vary from 8.32 to 9.36 in Nuri Pere.

To judge from the same catalog, Süleyman Kanunî was the first to issue Osmanlı gold in quantity. He also issued silver dirhems varying from 4.12 to 4.54 (N.P.).

Direm or *dirhem* is an interesting word. The names derive ultimately from the Greek *drachma*, itself a silver coin. The denomination was already in circulation in other older Islamic states, nominally as 1/10 of a gold dinar. But *direm* was also a weight in Turkish, as 1/400 of an *okka* (2.8 lbs.), in Kadikoy (Chalcedon) in 1935 some vegetables, I think, were also sold in *okka*, though the weight's use was illegal, the metric system having put an end to the many variety of weights one encountered. Anyway, Frey lists a *dirhem* as having been 46 grains. It is worth noting that in his accounts of Sultan Abdülmecid's coinage, Ölçer lists the quantity of pure gold (silver, copper) in the number of *dirhems* of gold in each coin. Thus in the Turkish pound, 100 kuruş there were 2 *dirhems* of gold, or 6 grams, or .614 milligrams, and 3 carats of copper (.602 mg), together making a coin (lira) of 12.216 gms.

From the reign of Süleyman I on, the complexity of denominations and weights increases until it reaches its maximum in the reign of Mahmut II, 1223/55 AH (1808/39 AD). Mahmut, apart from having a long reign, his debasement of the currency and its reform, produced a bewildering



Mahmut II 100 Para (C200a), Debased Coinage
This large and ornate coin of Mahmut II was a copper coin with a silver wash, usually worn off.

array of coins and units, along with differing weights. Probably the easiest account for the general collector to understand is to be found in the Krause/Mishler *Standard Catalog of World Coins*, under Turkey, together with the note it gives for the introduction to the coinage of Mahmut. Sections of the Empire like Tunis, Egypt, etc. are dealt with under the countries of those names. The distinguishing features of the coinage are listed as being based on the weights and fineness of the metals. But even here there is fluctuation. Note should be taken that these figures, names, etc. belong only to what I would term Turkey's heartland and where her own coinage circulated rather than those

in the erstwhile kingdoms, like Tunis, Algiers, Tripoli, etc. In them, the original units and currency names had been retained, the real change being that the coins were issued in the name of the reigning sultan.

The inclusion of these areas extends the areas of Turkish coinage vastly. From the collector's point of view it is perfectly feasible to get together a very representative collection - give the time and the money - without considering the erstwhile kingdoms at all. At the same time if one wants a collection fully representative of the Ottoman Empire, one would need to have at least a representative piece for each mint and ruler of all the denominations used. In the reign of Abdülmecid (1839/61) the coinage was reformed early in his reign, so that from then on until to date it is standard.

For the sake of the general run of collectors I am listing the coinage system as it is given in the K/M catalog. Following that I shall list the coins as they are shown in the N.P. catalog. In this last it will be noted how important are the actual weights. These can vary for any given denomination, most particularly the silver.

It is possible that more light could be thrown on the different issues by a study of such Istanbul mint records as have survived. It would seem that there may be much here to be studied. However, the great Turkish scholar/numismatist Cüneyt Ölçer relates a rather depressing story in his introduction to the coinage of Abdülmecid (of specific importance because of the reforms). In summary he says: "In 1974, after being elected to the Board of Directors of the Turkish Numismatic Society, he went with a friend to call on the new director of the mint at Yildiz. Many of the records had been burned and what was left was written in Armenian. In the end it appeared that some volumes had been saved because of the beauty of the bindings. And then it turned out that though the writing was indeed Armenian, the language was Turkish, *the mint having been in charge of an Armenian family in Istanbul for many years.* These covered the periods of Abdülmecid, Abdülaziz and Murat V. There were a great many other problems to do with the calendars used and so on but in the end Bay Ölçer was able to figure out the weights of metals used, number of coins minted and so on."

But to return somewhat to two specific reigns, here I plan to quote directly from Nuri Pere's catalog:

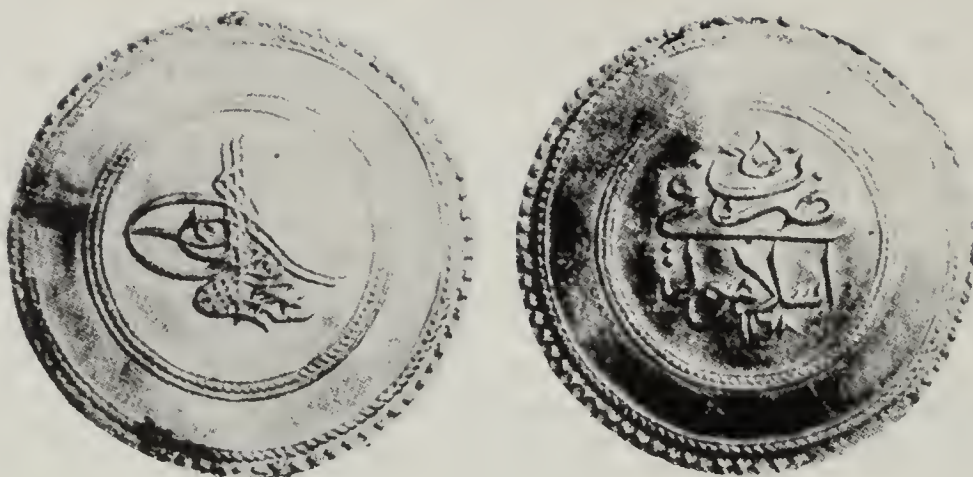


Zeri Mahbub of Abdül Hamit I
AH1187-1203/1774-1789 A.D.

'cedid zeri mahbub'.

"During the sultanate of Mahmut I, 1143 H. (1730 AD), gold and silver coins of the types of Ahmet III were minted. The gold coins were of two types. One was known as the 'New Istanbul' (Istanbul Cedid), the other the 'Golden Beloved' (Mahbub Zeri). At first the 'mahbub zeri' minted were exactly like the old ones. The later ones were simpler and more beautiful and hence the name 'The New Golden Beloved' or

"Of the large gold Cedid Istanbul coins there were the half, the one and a half, the two, the three, and the five denominations. These



*Triple Altın of Osman III, AH 1168-1171/1754-1757 AD.
A handsome gold piece showing the plain tuğra obverse
and the mint, Islambul, and dates on the reverse.*

coins vary in design and ornamentation. These gold coins are a little different in weight and gold content from the Zeri Istanbul (golden) or the 'Chained' (Zincirli) gold pieces. They are of 23 gold content and of one dirhem (400th part of an okka/2.8 kilos), one carat and one grain in weight.

"The single letters that began to be seen on the coins were found, during the reign of Mustafa II (1106 H./1695 AD), on almost every coin. These letters, which revealed the Masters of the Mint, are sometimes found on the 'sultanül berreyni' side, and on some above the value denomination legend."

The tariff of these coins is as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Para</u>	<u>Akçe</u>
Cedid Istanbul	150	450
Zeri Mahbub	110	330
Egypt Zincirlisi	110	330
Egypt Tuğralisi	105	315
Kuruş	40	120
Para	-	3



*2 Hayriye Altın piece of
Mahmut II, showing one of
his less ornate pieces.*

The coinage of Mahmut II reflected his troubled reign, unrest in many parts of the empire, troubled international relations which caused a high inflation. It also saw the independence of Greece and may be considered the beginning of the long decline of the Ottoman empire, as the "Sick Man of Europe". It was a period which only ended for good with the declaration of the Republic in 1923.

To quote again from Nuri Pere's book:

"During Mahmut II's long reign...a variety of gold coins were minted

with colorful names and decoration.... Each coin has been named after the design on it.

"The weight of the coins first issued was held equal to a half miscal, which was the standard for the 'zeri mahbub' series. But the coins minted after his fifteenth year are about one dirhem. The fractional coins issued were on the same weight basis.

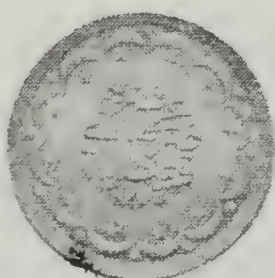
<u>Name</u>	<u>Karat</u>
Atik rumî altın	22
Hayriye altın	20
Atik adlî altın	19
Istanbul or Cedit rumî	19
Cedit adliye	17

"The weights of these coins were reduced during the later years."

From these two specific examples, taken from the Nuri Pere book (of coins issued during those reigns), I hope they will serve to show clearly what I mentioned earlier as "descriptive names". Also that the names and figures may show something of the complexity of the coinage system, not just in the reign of Mahmut II - the most extreme - but throughout much of the empire's history.

With the advent of Abdülmecid, one of the first actions of his government, and, I believe, at the instigation of the Sultan himself, was the reform of his coinage so that there might be a stable currency and an official rate of exchange for business and the empire as a whole. Thus, the very newest mint machinery was imported from Great Britain and installed at Yildiz. The government even employed an English die-maker, engraver, mechanic and weight specialists.

Thus it was that Abdülmecid's reign saw two types of coinage. The first four years, or pre-reform, followed the line of his father's. During this time he also struck "Mahmudiyeler" until his new system came in. This was more than a new type and standard of coins. For the first time the system was based on the silver kuruş and gold and silver were placed on a fixed ratio. Until this time the gold, silver and copper coins were actually three different coinage systems.



5 Kuruş (piastre) of Abdül Mecid's reform coinage.



5 Kuruş (piastre) of Mehmet VI (last sultan) following exact style of Abdül Mecid's reform coinage.

After the reformed coinage was started in 1844, the new standards took over. The results more than justified the sultan's vision, for apart from the accuracy of the weights and metal content of the coins which justified an international rate of exchange for the business

community, the coinage produced, at least to my way of thinking, was the most beautiful of the entire empire, and certainly one of the most beautiful currencies of the 19th century world.

The gold coins, as in the previous reigns, bore no denominations. They also continued to use the accession date and the regnal year of the sultan. I have always thought this interesting but have never encountered the reason. Roman coins were dated according to the tribunician power date, and the consulate. Later, the copper coins of Justinian (and some other emperors) were also dated by the regnal year.

In looking back, Mehmet II used various dates on his coins since he changed the date each 10 years. Normally a date change was for something special like the conquest of an important city. Various dates occur on the coins of Selim I, specifically the akçeler.

But to return to Abdülmecid coinage, only the gold denominations were struck regularly, those most used in commerce. These were the 100 kuruş (piastres) and the 50 kuruş, or $\frac{1}{2}$ lira. Most silver coins were issued annually except the 10 kuruş. It is also to be noted that there was a silver 20 para piece ($\frac{1}{2}$ kuruş) circulating at the same time as the copper 20 para. For the copper coins, the 1 and 5 para pieces were minted for most of Abdülmecid's reign, but the 10, 20 and 40 para pieces were not struck until near the end of the reign. Here again a silver piastre and a 40 para copper were both in circulation at the same time.



*The reform 40 para copper piece of Abdül Mecid.
There was also a silver one kuruş (piastre) piece
minted, and 40 para was one piastre.*

Just as Mahmut II's coins, as a series, had been called "mahmudiyeler" so the new coins of Abdülmecid were called "mecidiyeler". When I was in Turkey, those coins of course had long since been demonetized, but when anyone mentioned a mecidiye it was always the 20 kuruş piece. The silver coins themselves were much used for jewelry in many forms, partly because of the high grade of the silver content.

Abdül Hamit II introduced his new gold coins because there were so many more counterfiets in circulation; partly for uses as jewelry and savings. A contemporary estimated that one ton of gold per week went into jewelry and savings! Hoarding was not just a Turkish custom, it has always been universal. However, the striking of special gold

coins for the dual purpose was a practice only of a few countries like Persia and the Indian Native States.



250 Kuruş (piastres) gold Monnaie de Luxe piece of Mehmet V Resat, showing regnal year 4, and the title Resat to upper right of tugra.

Gold coins of that and the subsequent reigns became essentially bullion, though it was the gold reşadiye (lira or one pound) that was the most commonly bought and sold as such - I had a signet ring made from one.

Bay Ölçer lists the coins (reform) of Sultan Abdülmecid as follows (from his book):

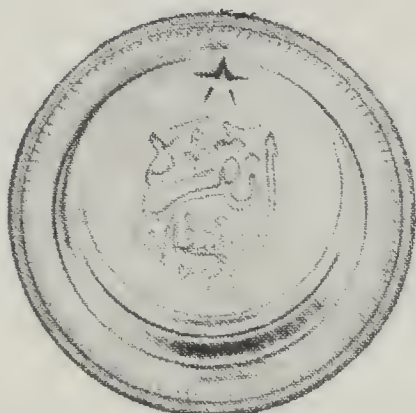
<u>Gold</u>		<u>Silver</u>	
500 kuruş	500 k	mecidiye	20 k
2½ lira	250 k	half mecidiye	10 k
Ottoman lira	100 k	quarter mecidiye	5 k
Half lira	50 k	2 kuruş piece	2 k
Quarter lira	25 k	kuruş	1 k
		20 para	½ k
<u>Copper</u>			
	40 para	1 k	
	20 para	½ k	
	10 para	¼ k	
	5 para	1/8 k	
	1 para	1/40 k	

Of the gold, only the lira and 50 k were struck regularly, with the other denominations struck later and not so many of them. For the silver there were more 20 para than the 20 para of copper. The 10, 20 and 40 para were struck later in his reign

When Abdül Aziz became sultan, he followed the line of his brother's coins, except that he struck very few copper pieces.

It was Abdül Hamit II (another brother) who made the first of some new introductions in the coinage. Probably the most important, made in the 23rd year of his reign, was the "Monnaies de Luxe" series, issued along with the regular gold coins. These were for presentation pieces (a practice found in Persia and some of the Indian princely states) and jewelry. One of the main reasons it is so hard to find good specimens

of gold and silver Ottoman coins was the fact that they were so frequently used as jewelry, usually drilling a hole and threading it on a necklace or some piece of clothing, a convenient way of keeping one's bank account. The value went by weight, not the actual number of pieces. The Turkish Republic continued the custom of issuing "Monnaies de Luxe" each year - the only change being the year of the Republic.



First gold series of the Republic before the use of the new (Latin) alphabet. 500 kuruş piece.



First Monnaies de Luxe series of the Republic, still using the old script and following the ornate style of the last Sultans.

But in actual fact, gold coins of either type never were used as currency, Turkey having gone off the gold standard like everyone else

in the 1930's.

Mehmet V Reşat switched from copper to nickel for the 5, 10, 20 and 40 para pieces in 1327 AH (1913 AD). These coins still circulated in the early years of the Republic and were much used in small change.

Before the introduction of Abdülmecid's reform coinage, it is not possible to trace the records of any particular denomination as the names and weights changed. But from the reign of Abdülmecid to the present day one can read the story of inflation in Turkey from 1844 to date all too easily.

The para piece, for instance, had vanished before the creation of the Republic; the later nickel 5 para piece had ceased to be of any use though one sometimes got several of them in change. The heavy copper 40 para piece was, of course, replaced by the nickel 40 para. One still got them in change, also, because there were many items that had fractional parts, like tram tickets. The one piastre (kuruş) piece was no longer silver but of nickel, was made in cheaper metals and became smaller and smaller in size as its value diminished until it vanished in 1979. A 10 para piece was minted during the war, as was a $\frac{1}{2}$ kuruş which was never released for circulation, since its

value had vanished by the time it had been minted. To understand why Turkey should ever have needed such small coins which one did not use, say, when going to the grocers, one had to understand the taxation system. Part of this the Republic inherited from the old Ottoman empire, matches and cigarettes and wine and tram tickets all had small excise taxes on them and the change came in buying one of those items. (Anyone who collects revenue stamps of Ottoman Turkey will know what I mean for there were and are an innumerable variety of taxes, on things, on advertisements, on requests of every kind, there was always a stamp of some denomination.) It did not matter much in itself, but when the items were added up, the tax could amount to quite a sum, i.e. like a sales tax in the United States.

The gold lira, or 100 kuruş piece, of the Empire became a silver coin. It, in its turn, became smaller and with less silver content until it became a nickel coin. Later it was a very small copper piece, later



Post World War II 5 kuruş piece of the Republic, examples of continuing inflation.

aluminum and now it is no longer minted for a lira is worth about 7/10 of one cent U.S. 2½ and 5 lira pieces continue to be minted for daily use, but, as in all bad inflations, the real coinage of the country is paper. Commemoratives in much higher denominations are minted in silver and gold, but in practice are non-circulating legal tender (NCLT). As Turkey gets back on a sounder economic basis and as

the annual inflation decreases, we have yet to see how it will affect the coins in use.

(NOTE: As this article deals with Turkish coins, I have used modern Turkish spellings throughout, even when it has applied to Arabic words. Though using Arabic script, Turkish and Arabic languages are just as different as French and English, yet having words in common as do the latter. Arabic was used as Turkey was the seat of the Caliphate for the entire Islamic world until 1923.)

INDIA, 20 PAISE ALUMINUM, 1983

by John DeMarias, Lincoln, Nebraska, NI #1539

The Indian government has added a regular-issue 20-paise piece to the currency. The hexagonal pieces is 26mm at maximum diameter and has a plain edge. It has the usual obverse design while the reverse consists of the value and the date surrounded by a decorative border. In 1968 a 20-paise coin in nickel-brass was to supercede the nickel 25-paise piece. However, the 25-paise was struck again in 1972, in cupro-nickel, and the 20-paise was discontinued. The intended fate of the 25-paise coin is unknown. With smaller rupees and aluminum 20-paise coins, a new coinage seems to be emerging.

A MODERN NÜREMBERG LAUER MINT VISIT MEDAL

by Tyge Søndergaard, Hæstved, DENMARK, NI#1944

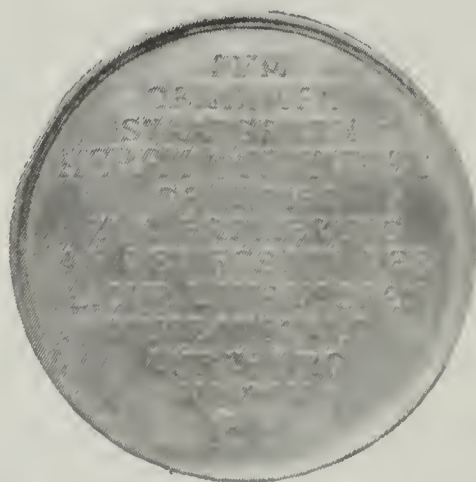
Looking at the City-View on this Nurembergian medal from the famous coin-striking establishment of L. Chr. Lauer, we are able to recognize the most edifices seen, if we use the key described in my article on the "Nurembergian City-View Talers" in our *Bulletin*, Vol. 16, Number 12, December 1982.

From the left we find:

The Castle (with 3, 4, 5, 8)
Spittlertor (2/11)
Neutor (2/10)
St. Sebalduskirche (15)
Frauenkirche (1)
St. Lorenzkirche (14)
Spitalkirche (12)
Laufertor (7/2)
Lauferschlagturm (6)
Königstor, sometimes called Frauentor and vice versa (2)

What the coat of arms concern, the left and right wear the same symbols as those described in my article under year 1633.

The middle one is not an arm of the city, but the Bavarian coat of arms, which has its own interesting heraldic content, as regards to the landscapes Weldenzen, Franken, Burgau-Schwaben and to the Kingdom of Bavaria itself.



Bronze

Mr. von Wittken's Lauer Mint Visit Medal 1895
(Ed. Swieczkowski Collection)

The inscription reads (translated) "In Memory of the visit of Mr. von Wittken, the Privy State-Councillor at L. Chr. Lauer's Medal establishment in Nürnberg on November 1895."

As this medal was given to Mr. von Wittken on the occasion of his visit to the coining factories of L. Chr. Lauer, I presume that it could be unique; who else should thence be given an example of Mr. von Wittken's medal? Maybe his companions on the visit that same day in Nov. 1895?

(Article Ed. Note: Anyone have any idea who this Mr. Wittken might have been--Lauer Mint's can't tell us since they were largely destroyed in World War II as the accompanying letter from them tells us:)

The letter of 17-5-1983 from L. Chr. Lauer, Nürnberg to Tyge Søndergaard, in translation from German into English.

Thank you very much for your letter of 8/2-83 with the enclosure (my article on the "Nurembergian City-View Talers") which we have read with great interest.

" As you yourself know, our firm exists nearly 200 years, but the activities after W.W.2 are mostly concentrated on the fabrication of ornaments for the electro-industry.

The making of medals, emblems or badges, marks, signs and counters is still going on in our house, though in a smaller extent and as a rule only in especially qualified and of very good workmanship.

It is planned to widen this part of the production with the object of bringing the reputation of the firm on the level which it took in during the past years.

Unfortunately the archives of the firm in 1944 was completely destroyed through the events of the war, and we thus are not able to give you any answers to your questions.

Your review therefore is of great importance to us, it fills up some of our own lack of information

Maybe Dr. Veith from the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg can tell you more; he also is a member of the local numismatic society.

We should be delighted to hear from you again, and we are also (inside our limited possibilities) prepared to give you any further information!"



ANNO 1520

"This is Nuremberg in 1520"

BRAZILIAN LOW DENOMINATION PAPER MONEY DEMONETIZED

We have received reliable information that as of July 1, 1984 Brazilian paper money in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 Cruzeiros will be demonetized and no longer acceptable as money, due to the extremely low values involved.

TARSUS AE 33, A DOCUMENT OF HISTORY

by the late Larry Devine, NI #1832



Elagabalus / Diana? with a deer

CILICIA, TARSUS. ca. 222 AD, AE 33. Elagabalus, *Roman Emperor for a short reign of 218-222AD, faces rt. Rev. Diana? subduing a deer. Exceedingly Rare, and probably Unpublished. Designs are F-VF, but the legend is weak.*

Tarsus was one of the cities of the Near East which was a "melting pot" of various religions. On the Imperial bronzes such as this coin of Elagabalus, many religious motifs occur. However, only very seldom, as in the instance of this exceedingly rare specimen, do they actually become documents which fill in missing information in the history of Western religion.

The figure shown subduing a deer by kneeling on its hind quarters and holding its head by the nostrils above a dagger is poised to perform a sacrifice of the animal, is nearly identical to the only known coin which represents the slaying of a bull by Mithra (See BMC., Cilicia, Plate 37, #4) also from Tarsus. Mithra is one of the most important gods in ancient religion, being a solar savior (first attested about 1500 BC) and his sacrifice of the bull was a primordial act of creation; one which the initiates into the Mithraic mystery religion of Roman times re-enacted in caves, turning themselves into immortal beings with power over demons, by eating the slain bull in their communion ritual. Also of considerable interest is the fact that Mithraism was the chief competitor of Christianity at this time. The Mithraic cults had altars with the so-called Tauroctonus beliefs (i.e., Bull-slaying scenes) all over the Near East, including Tarsus, when this coin was struck. But is the figure on it actually Mithra? That the coin is influenced by the Mithraic cult is certain. But the figure shown differs from the BMC coin in several important ways. First, the figure on that bronze, of identical fabric and style (as well as period -- Gordian III being represented on the obverse) kneels not on a deer but on a bull. The tail of the beast is much longer on the BMC specimen and it has shorter ears. Second, the figure on this coin wears a cap whereas the other has a radiate crown. In certain details, of the footwear there are also differences.

My conclusion is that the figure here represented is that of Diana, a deity with a competing cult. That Diana was an important goddess with a large following in that area is known. That she was given character-

istics of Mithra, in order that her cult win acceptance is new. Until this coin, she was generally known from sources, including coinage of the Near East (see Konrad Kraft: *Das System der Káiser-zeitlichen Munzpragung in Kleinasien*, Tafel VI, 37b; Tafel XX, 85a, 91) as peacefully standing side by side with the deer, riding it on occasion, or sometimes subduing it while holding a torch -- but not violently gripping the beast by the nostrils as the Mithraic mysteries require (for specific reasons, see Franze Cumont, *The Mysteries of Mithra*) and not ever holding a dagger for sacrificial reasons. The above examples in Kraft attest stylistically to the fact this figure is indeed Diana -- albeit in a syncretistic Mithraic pone. Probably unpublished, the only other example, to my knowledge, in in the ANS, New York collection, and it has identical dies. (Contributed by Abram Epstein, NYC)

INFORMATION, Please - Replies

Gold medal bought at N.I.C.E. '83 attributed

Information, Please (NIB, Feb. 1984, p38) described a gold medal: FER-NAND ET ELISAB, busts conjoined, reverse ships.

The following has been recieved from Mike Scott, of Alcante, Spain:

"The medal is a very modern issue, designed and promoted by Mr. Falcao. The piece is sold as bullion and follows gold prices."

The medal reportedly was struck in silver plus some trial pieces in copper. Mr. Scott indicated the piece was struck at Valenica, Spain, or Oporto, Portugal; the latter if the mark consisted of 4 P's in the



circle, and such is the case.

Mike indicated Mr. Falcao was well positioned with connections to both Valencia and Oporto mints.

C. C. Andrews,
Dallas, Texas

NEPALESE "DUMPY" PICE

by Raymond J. Hébert, Rockville, Maryland

Included on the trays of the U.S. National Numismatic Collections is a group of 166 (all but one from the same donor) anepigraphic bronze ingots and flan-like pieces believed to have been collected in Nepal.

The group can be divided into three types on the basis of size, shape, and weight (see Table I below).

Group I (10 pieces) are irregular squarish or rectangular cast ingot-like pieces approximately 30-24 mm. by 32-27 mm. and about 10 mm. thick. The surface is rough.

Group II (83 pieces) are irregular roundish dump-like flans approximately 23.5-22.5 mm. and about 10-8 mm. thick. Some seem to have been used as coins as there is evidence of a legend which seems to have been hammered flat. The surface where not smooth is gouged deeply.

Group III (73 pieces) are irregular rectangular, squarish, and roundish dump-like flans approximately half the size of Group II. The single piece referred to in paragraph one is worn smooth and has a counterstamped **6** on the obverse and reverse. The Nepalese national who donated this piece described it as a "weight used for the 1 pice piece". Were these pieces intended as weights, or as coins? For Group I the range of 44.475 g. to 40.505 g. results in a difference of 23% (on the high side) and 19% (on the low side). This figure is derived by subtracting the mean from the high, and dividing the result into the mean. For the low, subtract it from the mean, and divide the result into the mean. Following the same procedure for Groups II and III, we have respectively 21.905 g. (high) and 18.656g. (low) with a difference of 12% both ways, and 12.036 g. (high) and 8.165 g.(low) with a difference of 5% both ways. If we have here three sets of standard units, the tolerance of 23% and 19% for Group I is somewhat high also for Group II.

Group III	Group II	Group I
12.0 x 11.5 x 11.0 xxx5 10.5 xxx5xxx10xxxx 10.0 xxx5xxx10xxx15xxxx 9.5 xxx5xxx10xxx 9.0 xxx5xxx10xx 8.5 xxx5x 8.0 xx 10.177 g. (73 pieces)	21.5 xxx5xxx10 21.0 xxx5xxx10xxxx 20.5 xxx5xxx10x 20.0 xxx5xxx10xxx15xx 19.5 xxx5xxx10xxxx 19.0 xxx5xxx10xxx 18.5 xxx 20.348 g. (83 pieces)	44.0 x 43.5 xx 43.0 xx 42.5 x 42.0 x 41.5 x 41.0 x 40.5 x 42.654 g. (10 pieces)

Table I

But quoting Walsh (1),

The *Vaṃśāvali* (Native Chronicle), translated in Wright's "History of Nepal," says that Ratna Malla (the first king of the separate kingdom of Kāṭhmāṇḍū, "having introduced pice (paisā) into the currency instead of sukichas" (viz. quarter mohars, worth eight pice), but I have not heard of any copper coins of the Mallas, and *the chronicle probably refers to the "dumpy pice," lumps of copper, which were used in Nepal, as, until recently, in India.*"

and elsewhere (2):

"Besides the silver coinage there was until recently a copper currency of rough unstamped lumps of copper, called *ḍhebuā*, corresponding to the 'dumpy pice' that were formerly current in India. Four of these *ḍhebuās* make a *gaṇḍa*, and 25 *gaṇḍas* are equal to one rupee; so that $12\frac{1}{2}$ *gaṇḍas* or 50 *ḍhebuās* were equal to the mohar.

I would suggest that what was given to the U.S. National Numismatic Collections as a "weight," is what Walsh terms "dumpy pice," and that the *gaṇḍa* weighed about 42 grams, the *ḍhebuā* about 10 grams, and that there was a third unit, a double *ḍhebuā* weighing about 20 grams.

(1) 683-3, E.H. Walsh, "The Coinage of Nepal," *Royal Asiatic Society. Journal*, 1908.

(2) p. 693, *op. cit.*

HAIL TO A DRINK!

by Henry Grunthal

The 21mm copper-nickel in question is a humorous fabrication invented by a student fraternity in Rappoltstein, which calls itself "Academia Verborum Rappoltstein."

Rappoltstein is located in lower Austria, halfway between Vienna and St. Polten.

On the obverse, it shows apparently a beer-stein in the form of a medieval castle turret, with the exclamation "VIVAT HAUSTUS" ("Hail to a Drink!") at 6 O'clock above which it is signed with the script monogram "FR".

The reverse shows the beginning of an old German student song, "JERUM, JERUM, JERUM, etc." Pictured is a monkey holding a fish in front of a cat.

The medal is funny, but of insignificant numismatic value, nor of any commercial importance.

(Art.Ed.Note: I asked Mr. Grunthal several years back to i.d. this funny medal. The photos kept fading so I finally decided to go with the author's clear description. Here it is ...)

"COMMODUS - HE BELIEVED HE WAS HERCULES REINCARNATED"

by Lee Grossman, San Antonio, Texas, NLG, NI #1707



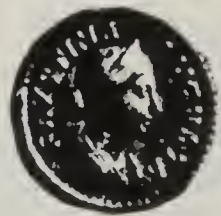
COMMODUS

==

In 177, Commodus was raised to Augustus, and he became joint emperor with Aurelius, and he joined his father in the Second Germanic War.



===



MARCUS AURELIUS & FAUSTINA JR.

Marcus Aurelius died on March 17, 180.

and was immediately deified. Commodus made peace with the Quadi and the Sarmatian tribes and returned to Rome

Commodus was a handsome man, which was reflected on his coinage. The Romans had high hopes that Commodus would follow in the footsteps of his noble father. They soon found out that this was not to be.



BRUTTIA CRISPINA

Commodus married Bruttia Crispina, the beautiful daughter of Lucius Fulvius Bruttius Praesen, in 177. He was 16 years old at the time. There were no issues of the marriage. Whether this was the reason or not, early in 182, Commodus had Empress Crispina banished to Capreae, where she was later put to death.

He began leaving the responsibility of the administration of the Empire to those he trusted.

First, there was Perennis, the Praetorian Prefect; his treachery was found out in 184. He was followed by Cleander, and then Laetus. Commodus seemed to vanish from public life. This dissolute son of a noble father had brought an abrupt halt to a happy era.

Commodus began to neglect important affairs and took to a life of pleasure-seeking. He had become insane! He would fight wild beasts in the amphitheatre. He provided these spectacles and games for the Roman people as a show of his generosity. His obsession, egotism and insanity soon had him believing he was the mythical hero Hercules returned to earth. Commodus demanded that the people worship him as Hercules. He began to wear the skins of animals as clothing. His coinage was changed to the bust of Hercules instead of his bust. And then he began wearing a lion-skin headdress. Some of his coinage shows this headgear of the Roman Hercules.

Numerous unsuccessful attempts were made on his life. But Commodus continued his partying. He invited some of his friends to the palace for a party to celebrate the New Year of 193. It was at this New Year's Eve party (December 31, 192), while Commodus was in a drunken

stupor, he was strangled. He was 31 years old.

His reign was a retrogression to all of the evil which had existed prior to Nerva. It was marked with violence and extravagance. The reign of a cruel, intemperate and insane ruler had ended.

His coinage as a Caesar (175-177 AD) was a Gold Aureus worth above \$2,000. in very fine condition. Silver denarii in VF can be obtained for \$40-50. Bronze sestertii, in Fine condition, sell for \$75 up; a dupondius can be bought for \$35, and the As is worth \$30.

Coinage as Co-Emperor (with Marcus Aurelius), 177-180, consisted of a Gold Aureus, in VF, selling for \$1500, and a Gold Quinarius valued at \$1800. Silver denarii, in VF, can be bought for \$35. Bronze Sestertii, in fine, is worth \$45 up; Dupondii can be purchased for above \$70, and Ases sell for \$72.

As sole-Emperor (180-192), his Gold Quinarius sells for \$1350 in VF, and the gold Quinarius is worth \$1800. Silver Denarii, in VF, can be bought for \$30 up, and the silver Quinarius for \$135.

Bronze sestertii, in fine condition, can be purchased for \$45 to \$225; Dupondii sell for \$72, and Ases are worth \$15 up.

Trajan Decius had Silver Antoniniani struck as Commemorative coins after the death of Commodus, which can be bought for \$45 in Fine. Colonial and Provincial coinage was struck as Bronze AE 19 to 27mm, and sells for \$12.50 to 50, in Fine, while Billon Tetradrachm can be bought for about the same price range.

Commodus' first titles were in 175 AD, when he was made Caesar. He received his Tribunician Power in 176; and received his Imperial Acclamation, Consulship, Pater Patriae and title of Augustus - all in 177.

My coin was purchased as a Silver Denarius, but I'm now certain that it is a Bronze Sestertius with a silver wash. It is in Very Fine condition. The obverse shows Commodus with a laureate bust, draped and cuirassed. The lettering around the bust reads: "L AVREL COMMODVS AVG" ("Lucius Aurelius Commodus, Augustus"). The reverse of the coin has the goddess Salus seated, left, feeding a serpent which is rising from the floor. The lettering is "TR P III IMP II COS PP" (Tribunician Power III; Imperial 2nd; Consulship, and Pater Patriae). Based on the lettering, I've determined that this coin was struck in 177 - his first year as joint emperor. The coin is not listed in Sear, but is similar to SEAR #1503.

REFERENCES:

SEAR, David R., - *ROMAN COINS AND THEIR VALUES* (Seaby 1974)
CARSON, ROBERT A.G., - *COINS OF THE WORLD* (NYC 1962)
KLAWANS, Zander H. - *READING & DATING ROMAN IMPERIAL COINS* (1977)

(This is Lee's 86th paper in a series)

ON A DUTCH TYPE SIKH TOKEN

by Dr. Jai Prakash Singh, Banaras Hindu Univ., Varanasi, INDIA

A few years back, our friend, Devendra Handa, published a token under the caption "A Unique Bilingual Commemorative Medal" [1]. This piece is indeed very interesting, in as much as it is the only known specimen of its kind so far. It appears to us that the piece concerned is not a "Commemorative Medal" as there is nothing that it commemorates. Therefore, it should be taken as a token of the Sikh religious types on account of the *mūlamantra* it contains on its reverse [2]. As the obverse type of the token is a copy of Dutch ducats of the type I prefer to call it as a Dutch type Sikh Token.

It is described as under:

Shape: round, size: 2.4cm.; thickness: 0.1 cm.; weight: 4.1 gm.; metal: bronze.

Obv.: Dutch knight standing with head to right, holding a straight sword upward going across his shoulder in right, and a bundle of arrows (seven in number) in left hand. Circular Latin legend from 1 o'clock CONCORDIA RES on right and PAR CRES TOA on the left. Date 1707, with 17 on left and 07 on right.

Rev.: In a square, all outer sides of which are decorated with fleurons, as found on Dutch ducats, a seven line legend in Gurumukhi script and Panjabi language as follows:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | ੴ ਸਤਿ ਨਾਮੁ | 1 (ek) Om (kāra), Satin(ā) - |
| 2. | ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ | ma, Karatā p(u) ra - |
| 3. | ਨਿਰਭਉ ਨਿਰਵੈਰੁ | kha, nirbhau |
| 4. | ਅਕਾਲ ਮੂਰਤਿ ਅਜੂਨੀ ਸੈਭੰ | nirv (ai)ra), A - |
| 5. | ਕਲਾ ਮੂਰਤਿ ਅਜੂਨੀ ਸੈਭੰ | kala nurati, |
| 6. | ਅਜਨੀ ਸੈਭੰ ਮੂਰਤਿ ਅਜੂਨੀ | Ajani s (ai) bha (m), |
| 7. | ਗੁਰ ਪਾਸੈ ਅਸਾਧੀ | G(u) ra pa(r) asādi |

The whole obverse design, the legend and the date is Dutch. The pattern of the reverse design also follows the pattern of the Dutch ducats, however, in place of their five line Latin legend within the square, it contains a seven line legend in *Gurumukhi*. According to Dr. H. Enno van Gelder a number of imitations of gold ducats of the type covering the years 1704, 1707, 1773, 1778 etc. "were manufactured in the early nineteenth century(?) at one place" [3]. There is no doubt that the piece is an imitation [4] of a gold ducat manufactured in India. But it is not a coin or a medal. It is only a religious token and was meant to serve a religious purpose is well indicated by the *mūlamantra* found in *Gurumukhi* on its reverse.

Dr. Handa thinks that this is a commemorative "medal issued by the Dutch authorities when Guru Govind Singh visited Agra in the beginning of August, 1707, soon after he was honoured by the Moghul Emperor Bahadur Shah there. The Dutch possessed a factory at Agra at the time. There is so far no record of Guru Govind Singh's having come into contact with

the Dutch in India, so this unique bilingual piece is the only evidence of the contact[5]."

This view of Dr. Handa is not acceptable. There is nothing on the token that may support its commemorative nature. The date A.D. 1707 possibly led him to associate it with the tenth Sikh Guru's Agra visit. His contact with the Dutch at Agra is as yet unknown. The Guru had a rebellious past and even though he was given a 'military command in the valley of Godavari[6]' by Bahadur Shah, people must have looked upon him with suspicion especially those who were to gain favours from the Mogul Emperor. Besides the Dutch were not going to gain anything by commemorating his Agra visit. Furthermore, there is no evidence to suggest that Agra was ever a Dutch mint.[7] As such it is not possible to attribute its issue to the Dutch at Agra in 1707.

It is clear that the piece is an imitation of a Dutch ducat of 1707. It is possible, therefore, that the piece was struck sometime after 1707 and not necessarily in that year. I am of the opinion that the obverse design was retained on the token as it went well with Sikh militarism. The person who imitated the piece or at whose instance it was copied took the Dutch knight to symbolise the Sikh soldier always ready to fight the oppressive forces of the time. Sikh militarism was at its height during the reign of Mahārājā Ranjit Singh (1799-1839), who had some Europeans too in his army[8]. It is not likely, therefore, to assign the issue of this piece to the period of this reign.

There is a possibility that the date of the Christian era was retained as an ornamentation, to fill up the space which would have given a vacant look without it, and has no significance, like the rest of the obverse legend[9]. The other possibility is that the date was retained as a date of Vikrama or the Śaka era of India. Vikrama 1707-58 = A.D. 1649 and Śaka 1707 + 78 = A.D. 1785. None of these dates 1649[10] and 1785 lead us anywhere. Thus the year 1707 does not seem to have any historical significance in the present context.

The chances are that the piece was copied by some private individual. He liked the obverse design of the Dutch ducat so much that he retained it completely, without caring to understand the meaning of the obverse legend and the date, but replace the reverse legend with the *mūlamantra* of the *Japuji* of Nanaka. The *mūlamantra* defines the nature of Almighty, and the rest of *Japuji Sāhab* gives an explanation of this *mantra*. It is (i) *ek onkāra*, (ii) *Satināmu*, (iii) *karata purakhu*, (iv) *nirbhau nirvair*, (v) *akālamurti*, (vi) *ājuni-saibha*, (vii) *gurprasāda*. It stands for (1) He is One, (2) of True Name, (3) Creator, (4) without Fear and Enmity, (5) Timeless, (6) never takes birth (or is self created); and (7) realised through the grace of the Guru[11]. The legend in the form of *mūlamantra* brings out the religious nature of the token.

Footnotes

- [1] Devendra Handa, *Panjab University Research Bulletin (Arts)*, Vol. III, No. 1. (April 1972), pp. 99-101
- [2] For Sikh Religious tokens see *NI BULLETIN*, Vol. 16, No. 12 (Dec. 1982), pp. 359-364, and also Irwin F. Brotman, *A Guide to the Temple Tokens of India* (Los Angeles, 1970), pp. 144-153; His Type G No. 2, also contains The *mūlamantra* and Samvat 1955.
- [3] In a letter to Dr. Handa, *cf. Ibid.*, p. 100.

- [4] *Ibid.*
- [5] *Ibid.*, p. 101
- [6] Cummingham's *History of the Sikhs*, (Ed. by H.L.O. Garret, S. Chand & Co., Delhi, Lucknow, Jullandar), p. 72
- [7] On the contrary there is some evidence that indicates the existence of a Dutch mint in Bengal, cf. C. Sholten, *Num. Circ.* May 1936, pp. 166; and F. Pridmore, *Ibid.*, Vol. LXVIII, 1960, page 263.
- [8] The names of French generals Ventura, Allard, Court and Avitabile are too well known, cf. *Ibid.*, p. 153, there may have been others too.
- [9] Had it really been issue to commemorate Govind Singh's Agra visit they must have given a suitable indication to that effect.
- [10] Guru Govind Singh was born in 1666 at Patna, and the Dutch had an establishment there too. It will be wrong to associate the piece with the Guru's birth simply because 1649 is too close to his year of birth.
- [11] Taran Singh, "Sikh Idea of Bhakti," *Research Journal of the Faculty of Arts*, B.H.U., No. 1, 1978, pp. 9-13.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Voices approval of NCL Counterfeit Analysis Reports

I for one would like to voice my approval of your decision to continue including the reports (*NCL Counterfeit Analysis Reports*) in the *NI BULLETIN*. I look forward to the, and have them (past reports) on file for present and future use.

I do, however, believe that the real value of the reports is limited in that as a general rule (a) most counterfeiters make more than one mold to cast their imitations. Each mold has different significant variations so that two coins, one made from one mold and the other made from a different mold, even though it be made by the same counterfeiter, will have different identifying marks. (b) For each type coin reported by the *NCL Counterfeit Analysis Reports*, there are a number of counterfeiters making the same type (this is especially true of counterfeit collector coins, as opposed to coins produced to pass as money in circulation).

When we consider these two important facts, we can see that a possible misunderstanding arises when a collector being offered a counterfeit coin (as a genuine) will assume that the coin being offered doesn't match the one in the *NCL Report*, so it must be genuine. Actually there is a very small chance (considering the number of possible variations) that a counterfeit coin will be the identical same coin reported.

None-the-less, the reports are important in making us, the collectors, aware that our hobby is still plagued by counterfeit coins.

If the reports keep just one collector from buying a counterfeit as genuine, they have indeed served an important function.

Marlin Etzel, NI #1415
Sgt. Bluff, Iowa

CONTENTS OF THE NI REFERENCE COLLECTION

(Members desiring to borrow coins from the collection for research purposes, lecture use, non-competitive displays, or any other reason, may do so by paying postage and insurance both directions.)

Key to Listing: FINE or better for all Yeoman types. VERY GOOD or better for all Craig types. Underlined = Uncirculated. C = Complete. C = Complete with at least one uncirculated type. (CX (----)) = Complete except those listed. X = Except. Mints are not listed unless multiple for the particular year.

GABON: Y1 - 1971.

GAMBIA: Y1 to Y7 - C; Y8 - 1971.

GERMAN STATES: Aachen - C2 - 1765; Anhalt-Dessau - C121 - 1864; Baden - C80 - 1828; C102a - 1852; C107 - 1841; C139 - 1856; C141 - 1866; C142 - 1859, 1862, 1869, 1870; C144 - C; C145 - C; C148 - C; Bavaria - C189 - 1842; Frankfurt - C25.1 - 1863; Hamburg - Y59 - 1876; Y59a - 1908; Hannover - C85 - 1863; Hesse-Cassel - C154 - 1860; Hesse-Darmstadt - C120a - 1826; C150 - 1848; Lippe-Detmold - C83 - 1858; Nurnberg - C36 - 1806; Oldenburg - C59 - 1866; C60 - 1858; Prussia - C15 - 1783; C81 - 1796; C104 - 1807; C105 - 1816; C128 - 1862; C146 - 1849; C147 - 1843; C161 - 1863, 1864; C161b - 1868; C162 - 1865, 1868; C163 - 1864, 1867; C167 - 1870; Y120a - 1900, 1902; Y121 - 1908, 1910; Y122a - 1893; Y128 - C; Y134 - C; Rostock - C12 - C; Saxony - C252 - 1862.

GERMANY: Y1 - 1875A,C, 1876A, 1887A,E, 1889A,D; Y2 - 1874C,F, 1875B,C,F; Y3 - 1890D, 1892E, 1894A, 1895E, 1900D, 1804A,F, 1905A, 1906A, 1907A, 1910A, 1911A, 1912A, 1913A; Y4 - 1904A,E, 1905G, 1908A,F, 1911A, 1912E, 1915A, 1916A; Y5 - 1875A,J, 1876B,J; Y6 - 1874A, 1875G, 1876A,B; Y8 - 1890A,D, 1897A, 1899A, 1901A, 1902A,D, 1903A,D, 1904A, 1906A, 1907A, 1908D, 1912A,G, 1914A; Y9 - 1890A, 1897A, 1898F, 1900A, 1901E, 1903D,J, 1905A, 1907F, 1912A, 1913A, 1914F,G, 1915A; Y10 - 1890D; Y11 - 1909A; Y12 - 1876D,F; Y13 - 1875A,F; Y16 - 1906A,D,E, 1911G, 1913F, 1916A,D, 1918F; Y17 - 1875A,H, 1881A; Y18 - 1901A, 1902F, 1907E, 1913J; YA18 - 1916A; Y18 - 1901A, 1902A, 1907E, 1913J; Y19 - 1917D,E,; Y21 - 1917A, 1918A, 1919A,J, 1920A,D,F,J, 1921A, 1922D; Y22 - 1916A, 1917A; Y25 - C; Y26 - 1920A,F, 1921A,D,J, 1922A,D,F; Y28 - 1922A; Y29 - 1922A; Y30 - 1923A,D,F; Y31 - 1923A,D; Y32 - 1923A, 1924E; Y33 - 1923A, 1924D,F; Y34 - 1923A, 1924A,D,E,F; Y35 - 1924A,D,F,G,J; Y36 - 1923A, 1924A,D,F; Y37 - 1924J, 1924A,J, 1928D,F, 1929D, 1930A, 1931A, 1931A,F, 1934A,F, 1935A, 1936A,G; Y38 - 1924E, 1925A,E,F; Y39 - 1932A,J; Y40 - 1924A,G, 1925A,D,E, 1926A, 1935A,E, 1936A; Y41 - 1924G, 1925A, 1929A, 1935J, 1936A,D; Y43 - 1927A,J, 1928A,D,E, 1935J, 1937A; Y45 - 1925A; Y50 - 1925A; Y81 - 1933F, 1934D,J, 1935J, 1937A; Y82 - CX (1936E,J); Y83 - 1934D; Y84 - 1934A; Y85 - 1935D,E; Y88 - 1937A, 1939A,F; Y89 - 1937A, 1938F, 1939A,B,D, 1940E; Y90 - 1937A, 1938A,F,J, 1939A,E,F; Y91 - 1937D,G, 1938A,B,F, 1939B,D,F; Y92 - 1940E, 1941A, 1942F, 1943A,B, 1944D; YA92 - 1940J, 1941A, 1942A,D,J, 1943A,F, 1944A,D, 1945A,E; YB92 - 1940A,B,F, 1942A,G, 1943A,D,E, 1944E; YC92 - 1940A,D,E,F, 1941A,B,D,E,F, 1942A,B,D,F,J, 1943A,E, 1944A,B,F, 1945A; Y95 - 1940A; Y96 - 1936E, 1937A,D, 1939A,D; Y97 - 1936A,E, 1938A; Y100 - 1947F.

GERMANY, WEST: Y101 - CX (1948D,J, 1949D,G); Y102 - C; Y103 - C; Y104 - CX (1949G, 1950G); Y105 - 1950 A11, 1966F, 1967D,G,J, 1968D,F,J, 1969 A11, 1970 F,G,small J, 1971D,F,G, 1972D, 1973D,F, 1974F, 1975D, 1976F,J, 1977F,G, 1978D,F,G. (To be continued next month.)

MEMBER NOTICE PAGE

Scott E. Cordry, P. O. Box 9828, San Diego, California 92109: WANTED for my personal collection - any unusual silver or bronze coins of Morocco from AH1172-1298. Please write if you collect this series. I am currently researching these coins for a book.

ATTRIBUTION SERVICE: The NI Attribution Committee will accept, from NI members only, any numismatic items, whether paper, metal, or whatever, for attribution. We must limit the items to a TOTAL OF SIX (6) MAXIMUM. The cost is just advance payment of return postage, including sufficient for insurance or registration, if desired. Send to NI Attribution Committee, P. O. Box 2057, Saugatuck Station, Westport, Conn. 06880, U.S.A.

RUSSIAN PLATE MONEY INSPECTORS' STAMPS

by *Randolph Zander, NI-HLM*

(Reprinted from his *JOURNAL OF THE RUSSIAN NUM. SOCIETY* #13)



The significance of the sets of four initials occasionally found on the reverse of 1726-1727 grivna copper plate pieces has until recently been unknown or overlooked.

Dychkov and Uzdennikov in the 1978 reference *COINS OF RUSSIA AND THE USSR* furnish on page 149 an explanation, in substance as follows:

"There was such a widespread and sustained tendency at the first primitive Ekaterinburg Mint to produce considerably overweight plate money that special inspectors were appointed to check the product. Three are known: Gavril Albychev (1726), Ivan Podnebesnikov and Arkhip Borodulin (both 1727). They used inspectors' stamps with four initials arranged in two lines of two each. The upper line in each case carries the common initials ПП, abbreviation for ПРИЕМЩИК =INSPECTOR, and the lower line the initials ГА, ИР, or АБ corresponding respectively to the names given above.



a single one-kopeck plate piece is also known with such a stamp on the reverse."

Various tantalizing questions remain of course unanswered, but Dyachkov and Uzdennikov bring us at least a long step forward.

(Article Editor's Note: In his accompanying note Editor Zander tells us this information, "til now evidently not known in the west"!)